

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

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**MARION WOMAN SENTENCED TO 24 MONTHS PRISON FOR
EMBEZZLING FROM HER EMPLOYER
AND SUBMITTING FALSE FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURNS**

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on February 26, 2007, **TINA RENEE WALKER**, age 36 of Marion, Illinois, was sentenced to 24 months in prison for the offenses of Mail Fraud and Filing a False Tax Returns for the years 2003 and 2004. Following her release from prison, she was ordered to serve three (3) years supervised release. As conditions of supervised release she was ordered to cooperate with the Internal Revenue Service and to not engage in any employment where she is in a position of trust over the funds of another. She was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$142,149.34, and a special assessment of \$300.

According to facts made public in court proceedings, **TINA RENEE WALKER** embezzled funds totaling approximately \$142,000, from approximately October 2003 to October 2004, while she worked as an office manager for a general surgeon. **TINA RENEE WALKER** also filed false federal income tax returns in 2003 and 2004 and failed to report the embezzled funds as income. During 2003 and 2004, **TINA RENEE WALKER** used the \$142,149.34 of embezzled money to pay mortgage payments, pay off vehicles, purchase 4-wheelers, purchase a hot tub, build a deck around their pool, as well as other various purchases, including trips to the casino boats in Illinois.

The investigation was conducted by the Internal Revenue Service, Office of Criminal Investigations, Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General and the United States Department of Labor. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Norman R. Smith.

If you suspect or know of an individual or company that is not complying with the tax laws, you may report this activity by contacting the local Internal Revenue Service/Criminal Investigation Office or by mailing information to:

Internal Revenue Service
Fresno, CA 93888

Please include the following information, if available:

Name and address of the person you are reporting

The taxpayer identification number (social security number for an individual or employer identification number for a business)

A brief description of the alleged violation, including how you became aware of or obtained the information

The years involved

The estimated dollar amount of any unreported income

Your name, address and daytime telephone number

Although you are not required to identify yourself, it is helpful to do so. Your identity can be kept confidential. You may also be entitled to a reward.